



Officer Ty Gentry and Sgt. Vince Lambres



Lt. Cary McGagin

CHP Officers Capture FBI-Wanted Terrorism Suspect

By Lt. Robert Jones (11731), South Sacramento Area

November 2 appeared to be a customary Sunday morning in the South Sacramento Area. Officer Ty Gentry (15126) was arriving for the start of his rural area shift unaware that this Sunday would be anything but standard.

This story actually begins a few weeks earlier in the northern part of the state. In late October, Lt. Cary McGagin (12678), Redding Area field operations officer, received a telephone call from a friend advising McGagin that he and two of his co-workers had just observed a suspicious individual working on the base of a large metal Pacific Gas and Electric Company high voltage tower. The friend advised McGagin that when they approached the individual to see what he was doing, the man fled in a gray colored Toyota pickup. Alerted that something was not quite right, he took several digital photographs of the truck and driver as it sped away.

He also checked the electrical tower, finding that two of the four large metal legs supporting the tower had been completely unbolted. A substantial amount of dirt had been dug away from around a third leg of the tower, compromising the tower's ability to remain upright.

McGagin's friend first attempted to notify the proper authorities; however, he realized that the

process likely would not produce an immediate response. He then called McGagin at home to describe the urgency of the situation.

McGagin responded immediately. He quickly discovered that his friend's assessment was indeed quite accurate, and that unless immediate action was taken, any rise in wind velocity might cause the tower to collapse—bringing live high-voltage power lines down across Interstate 5. McGagin made the appropriate notifications to the Redding Area Commander, Capt. Dave Hahn (10044), as well as Northern Division and the California State Warning Center. The power company responded immediately, and within a short period of time the tower was secured. McGagin's friend's quick thinking provided complete descriptions of both the suspect and the suspect vehicle.

As a result, an FBI wanted bulletin and electronic advisory notice were quickly generated and distributed to all CHP offices in the

state. The bulletin identified the suspect as Michael Devlyn Poulin from Spokane, Washington. Poulin has a criminal history, including attempted murder and the use of destructive devices causing mayhem. Poulin also immediately became the FBI's prime suspect in the sabotage of seven other high voltage towers in both Oregon and Northern California. The bulletin provided an accurate description of the vehicle Poulin was believed to be driving, a gray colored 1997 T-100 Toyota pickup, with a white camper shell, bearing a Washington license plate.

A few weeks later on this Sunday morning in November, as Officer Gentry was pulling into the parking lot to start his shift, he saw a 1997 gray colored T-100 Toyota pickup truck with a white camper shell bearing an Oregon license plate. Gentry immediately recognized the vehicle as wanted by the FBI, even though the license plate didn't match. Gentry's suspicions were promptly confirmed when a man

matching Poulin's description approached. The suspect asked Gentry if he knew where the nearest FBI office was located. Gentry remained calm and politely advised the gentleman he did not know, but it would only take a few seconds to find out. The man seemed appeased for the moment and content to wait for Gentry's information.

Gentry, still in civilian attire, quickly drove his vehicle into the secured back parking lot. He then went inside and summoned assistance of any other officer, preferably one in uniform. Sgt. Vince Lambres (9909) answered the call for assistance and Gentry described the situation. Lambres and Gentry confirmed the identity of the suspect, using the FBI wanted bulletin. They then formulated a plan to contact the suspect.

Lambres first advised Sacramento Communications Center that he and Gentry would be contacting a suspect believed to be Poulin outside the South Sacramento Area office. They went out the side door of the office and approached the suspect from behind, taking him by surprise and into custody without incident. Within minutes, a host of FBI agents arrived at the South Sacramento office and took custody of Poulin.

Thanks to the efforts of Lieutenant McGagin, Sergeant Lambres and especially Officer Gentry, who is adamant about always remaining vigilant and observant, Michael Devlyn Poulin is now facing a multitude of charges certain to keep him behind bars for many years to come.

This concluded the events that made this a not-so-routine morning at South Sacramento Area. Officer Gentry suited up in uniform and began cruising his beat in the rural southern portion of Sacramento County providing safety, service, and yes...security to the people of the State of California. ■

WANTED BY FBI

Date: 10/23/2003
Case #: 206A-SC-37705
Name: MICHAEL
DEVLYN POULIN
Address: 14819 E 4TH
AVENUE
SPOKANE, WA 99216
Height: 5 Feet 11 Inches
Weight: 250
Age: 62
Sex: M
Eyes:
BROWN/GLASSES
Hair: BLACK/GRAY
Complexion:
Race: WHITE
Birth Date: 9/22/1941

OTHER INFORMATION BELOW

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES: CALIFORNIA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, NEVADA
AND OREGON
WANTED IN RELATION TO ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE OF HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES IN
AND CALIFORNIA. IF LOCATED, DETAIN SUBJECT AND HOLD VEHICLE. IMMEDIATELY
NOTIFY FBI SACRAMENTO SPECIAL AGENT MIKE SKEEN AT (530) 232-6992 (PAGER) OR
SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT TODD DAVIS AT FBI SACRAMENTO (916) 481-9135 FOR
FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: GREY 1997 TOYOTA T100 PICKUP W/ WHITE SHELL, WASHINGTON
A36457P.

*****OFFICER SAFETY*****

POULIN HAS CRIMINAL HISTORY, INCLUDING ATTEMPTED MURDER, USE OF DESTRUCTIVE
DEVICE CAUSING MAYHEM.

FEDERAL ARREST WARRANT AND VEHICLE SEARCH WARRANT ISSUED 10/23/2003.